

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A network switch for network communications includes at least one first data port interface, wherein the a least one first data port interface supports a plurality of first data ports transmitting and receiving data at a first data rate.

- 5 At least one second data port interface is provided, wherein the at least one second data port interface supports a plurality of second data ports transmitting and receiving data at a second data rate. A flow control unit is provided, wherein at least one of the first data ports and at least one of the second data ports are linked together with a plurality of ports on a second
- 10 network switch forming a trunk group that is configured by the flow control unit to statistically distribute a data load transmitted across the trunk group.

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